Exploration of Gold and Petroleum Deposits in Bihar

†2217. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government has requested the Central Government to explore gold and petroleum deposits in the State; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. In the month of June, 2001 the Government of Bihar has requested the Central Government (Ministry of Mines) to take up exploration for gold in Jamui District, Bihar.

As regards exploration of petroleum deposits, no request has been received by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) The mineral exploration in Bihar is being taken up by Geological Survey of India as per the programmes approved by the Central Geological Programming Board.

The Government plans to accelerate the activities relating to the exploration of oil and gas in the State of Bihar through inclusion of some blocks under future round of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Reservations for OBCs in Railways

†2218. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments of class III and IV employees made in Indian Railways since implementation of reservation for OBCs and the details of such appointments in Zonal Railways and production units;

(b) whether there is any backlog in appointments of other backward communities in the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.